

Remarks

Claims 2, 11 and 20 are canceled herein. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 remain pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 25 and 26 are amended in this Response. The Assignee respectfully traverses the rejection and request allowance of claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended herein to incorporate limitations from dependent claims 2, 11 and 20, respectively. For example, claim 1 now further contains the limitation of processing the first intranet access information "to create a first card configuration for the first intranet access card" in response to determining an intranet configuration does not exist. Claims 10 and 19 are similarly amended.

Claims 2, 11 and 20 are canceled herein as a result of incorporation of limitations therefrom into independent claims 1, 10 and 19, respectively.

Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been further amended to indicate that a single intranet configuration may be employed by a plurality of users.

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 25 and 26 are variously amended to clarify references to, and provide proper antecedent basis for, the terms "request message" and "intranet access information;" to remove duplicate language between independent and dependent claims for clarity; and to fix typographical errors.

§ 103 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0029350 A1 to Cooper et al. (hereinafter "Cooper") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0054019 A1 to de Fabrega (hereinafter "de Fabrega"). The Assignee submits that current claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 are novel and non-obvious over the combination of Cooper and de Fabrega in light of the following discussion.

Independent claim 1 currently provides, in part, "processing the first request message to execute a script to create the intranet configuration, *to create a first card configuration for the*

first intranet access card, and to connect the first user to the intranet configuration” in response to determining the intranet configuration does not exist. Thus, as shown above, the intranet configuration and the first card configuration do not represent the same configuration, as they are shown to be created separately.

According to the current application, “[t]he intranet configuration could be any connection or group of connections between one or more communication devices that provide intranet services. Some examples of the intranet service include without limitation, data access, programming interfaces, user publishing, search vehicles, and administration/management.” Page 5, lines 20-23. Thus, an intranet configuration specifies a particular set of connections between communication devices, and a single intranet configuration could be employed by several different users bearing different intranet access cards. (See, for example, page 6, line 30, to page 7, line 9, describing first and second groups of users bearing first and second access cards containing intranet access information for first and second intranet configurations, respectively.)

The first intranet access card configuration, on the other hand, “could be used to associate a specific intranet access card with the appropriate intranet configuration. The intranet access card configuration could also be used to configure the requesting communication device, e.g. 206, for faster access to an intranet configuration. The intranet access card configuration could also be used to monitor intranet usage, such as where the intranet services are sold on a time based system.” Page 9, lines 19-24. Thus, an intranet access card configuration contains information specific to the user associated with the card, whereas an intranet configuration may be applied to multiple users. This view is supported by the alternative reference in the present specification to the intranet access card configuration as a “member” configuration. Page 10, lines 7-8.

An intranet access card configuration and an intranet configuration are further distinguished in the operational steps illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 of the present application, as the presence of an intranet configuration is determined in step 406, while the presence of an intranet access card configuration is determined in step 408.

The Office action indicates that Cooper discloses an intranet configuration in the passage discussing a Public Email Terminal, or PET, at paragraphs 284 to 323, with specific reference to paragraphs 294, 296, 298, 299, 309 and 321. The Assignee respectfully disagrees. Cooper states

that "[t]he PET decrypts the setting and configures the PET's network and dialup connections, user interfaces, and server access methods (protocols, etc.) *required for this user session.*" Paragraphs 298. Also, Cooper refers to "[a]utomatic configuration of network settings *for the user* when the user access [sic] the PET." Paragraph 312. Thus, Cooper may refer to intranet access card configurations specified for a particular user, but does not teach or suggest a separate intranet configuration which may be employed by multiple users, as provided for in claim 1.

The Office action also states that de Fabrega "discloses a public access kiosk providing the capability to access an internet and teaches accessing an existing intranet customer configuration using a prepaid card (0023; 0032; 0054; 0056; 0057; 0063). De Fabrega also discloses the ability to create an intranet configuration if one does not yet exist for the customer and connecting the customer to the configuration after it is created (0023; 0032; 0053; 0054)." Page 4 of the Office action. The Assignee respectfully disagrees. In those passages, de Fabrega discusses the creation or use of a log-on ID and PIN number (paragraph 32), as well as an e-commerce intranet ID and password, questionnaire responses and "clickstream" information (paragraph 54). Some of the identifying information may be akin to "intranet access information" of claim 1, which identifies a user of the intranet, while some portion, such as the clickstream information, may represent an intranet access card configuration. However, no part of de Fabrega discusses a separate intranet configuration for a group of users, as provided for in claim 1.

Based on at least the foregoing reasons, the Assignee believes claim 1 is allowable, and such indication is respectfully requested.

In addition, independent claims 10 and 19 provide similarly for separate intranet and intranet access card configurations. Therefore, based on the above remarks, the Assignee believes claims 10 and 19 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above in support of claim 1, and such indication is respectfully requested.

Further, since claims 3-9 depend from independent claim 1, claims 12-18 depend from independent claim 10, and claims 21-27 depend from independent claim 19, the Assignee asserts that each of these sets of dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons provided above for their respective independent claims.

Claims 2, 11 and 20 have been canceled, as provisions from those claims concerning the first intranet access card configuration have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 10 and

19 respectively. Thus, the rejections against claims 2, 11 and 20 are rendered moot.

Therefore, the Assignee respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-27 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

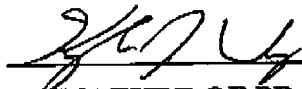
Based on the above remarks, the Assignee submits that claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 are allowable. Additional reasons in support of patentability may exist, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of clarity and brevity. The Assignee respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27.

As this Response is being filed in a timely manner within two months of the filing date of the final Office action mailed November 18, 2004, the Assignee respectfully requests the application of the provisions of MPEP 706.07(f) and MPEP 714.13 regarding Advisory Actions.

The Assignee believes no additional fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine additional fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/18/05


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